

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 186
By DeBerry L

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of gospel recording artist
Reverend Milton Brunson and recognize
Reverend Brunson's group, the Thompson
Community Singers.

WHEREAS, it is only fitting that this body pause to honor those special persons who
excel in making music, providing endless hours of enjoyment and inspiration, and who through
their outstanding accomplishments in the music industry have established a legacy that others
can merely hope to emulate; and

WHEREAS, once in a great while, there comes along a group of persons who through
their capacity for love, richness of spirit and faith in God, dedicate themselves to touching and
shaping lives, thereby helping to build a better and brighter world; and

WHEREAS, the late Reverend Milton Brunson & the Thompson Community Singers,
affectionately called the "Tommies", comprised one such special group of persons who through
their enormous talents and tremendous skills, became America's premier Gospel Choir; and

WHEREAS, through their gifts and hard work, the "Tommies" have carved for
themselves a niche in the contemporary gospel music industry; they are best-known for their
trademark marriage of contemporary urban grooves; for many glorious years the group
combined with Reverend Brunson's long-established foundation in traditional Gospel; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Brunson organized the original "Tommies" in 1948, when he was
a senior in high school in his hometown of Chicago. He oversaw every detail of the choir, from

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their neatly pressed black and white outfits to the rousing spirituals and anthems that became their signature sound; and

WHEREAS, named after the pastor who gave them their first rehearsal space, the Thompson Community Singers remained together through the 50s, when Reverend Brunson served as musical director at two different area churches before assuming the pastorate of the then-fledgling Christ Tabernacle Church in 1965; and

WHEREAS, well established as one of the country's leading Gospel choirs, the "Tommies", as well as the Christ Tabernacle Church, flourished and prospered both spiritually and creatively; and

WHEREAS, with nine number one albums to their credit since signing with Word Records in 1981, Reverend Brunson & the "Tommies" have held the Gospel charts under vital lock and key for well over a decade, winning their first Grammy in 1995; and

WHEREAS, it is rare that a profession is blessed with such a remarkable, hard-working and gifted group of people as Reverend Milton Brunson & the Thompson Community Singers; and

WHEREAS, the Thompson Community Singers will perform in Memphis, at Mt. Vernon Baptist Church, on Sunday, April 20, 1997; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to honor and commend the late Reverend Milton Brunson and The Thompson Community Singers for their dedication and commitment to the growth and development of gospel music; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor the memory of Reverend Milton Brunson and recognize his group, the Thompson Community Singers, for their awesome talent for making great music, and commend them on their vast contributions to the Gospel music industry.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.